

REMARKS

The objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) has been obviated by canceling claim 17.

The rejection of claims 1-9, 10, 11-15, 17, 18-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103 has been obviated by revising claim 1 so that it more clearly distinguishes the invention from the Mochizuki '178 patent. Specifically, amended claim 1 now recites an electrically powered foldable mirror device for a vehicle that comprises a tubular shaft, a case including a first fitting portion fitting at the outer circumference of the shaft lower end portion, a mirror main body supported by the case, a motor base mounted to the case and including a second fitting portion seatingly fitted with the shaft upper end portion such that the case in motor base are rotatably supported along the vertical direction of the shaft by the first fitting portion and the second fitting portion, and

“a cover having a cover portion, which cover portion is fitted on the second fitting portion of the motor base in such a manner that the second fitting portion is interposed between the cover portion and the shaft upper end portion.”

None of the references of record either discloses or suggests the electrically powered foldable mirror device defined in amended claim 1. In particular, in the Mochizuki '178 patent, cap 30 is directly fitted on the upper end portion of the shaft 13 in such a manner that no member is interposed between the cap 30, and the upper end portion of the shaft 13 (see Figures 1 and 3).

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Mochizuki '178 patent.

As claims 2-16, 18-20 and 23 are each ultimately dependent upon amended claim 1, each of these claims is likewise allowable at least by reason of such dependency.

Now that all the claims are believed to be allowable, the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Cole
Registration No. 28,290

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
Telephone: (202) 585-8000
Fax: (202) 585-8080